

**Connecting the Dots:
Wildfire, Forest Health, and
Sustainable Rural Economies**

Draft Webposium Agenda

October 29, 2009

8:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

8:45 – 9:00 Registration

Participants are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch. A brief lunch break will be allowed prior to the third panel discussion to enable participants to grab lunch at a local eatery and bring back for the final panel and afternoon discussion session.

9:00 – 9:15 Welcome and Opening Comments

Jim Branham, Executive Officer, Sierra Nevada Conservancy*
Randy Moore, Pacific Southwest Regional Forester, USFS*

9:15 – 10:15 On-the-Ground Projects

This panel will be highlighting collaborative, inclusive, and transparent projects where the “dots” are being connected successfully. We will explore the components of a successful project/working group and will consider how they address challenges and make progress. Highlighted projects include the White Mountain Stewardship Project, the Amador-Calaveras Collaborative, the Sierra Business Council’s Carbon Cooperative and the [Placer County Biomass Project](#), among others.

Video Presentation: [White Mountain Stewardship Project](#)
Chris Knopp, Forest Supervisor, Region 3, [Apache and Sitgreaves National Forests](#)

Panel Members:
Steve Wilensky, Supervisor, Calaveras County*
Brett Storey, Placer County*
Steve Frisch, President, [Sierra Business Council](#)*

10:15-10:30 Panel Transition/Short Break

10:30 – 11:30 Sustainable Economies, Sustainable Environment

This panel will discuss the need and opportunity for sustainable solutions that provide multiple benefits. Various local stakeholders will discuss what’s at stake and what’s to gain in the rural communities of the Sierra – and why we can’t fail to successfully address these complex environmental and economic problems.

Video Presentation: [W. M. Beaty and Associates](#)
Don Beaty, General Manager*



Panel Members:

Jay Francis, Forest Manager, [Collins Pine](#)*
Craig Thomas/Warren Alford, [Sierra Forest Legacy](#)*
Brian Dahle, Supervisor, Lassen County

11:30- 12:00 Panel Transition/Lunch Pick-Up

Participants who did not bring lunch will be allowed a short break to grab lunch-to-go at a local restaurant. Participants are requested to bring their lunches back as the third panel will be a “working lunch” session.

12:00-1:00 Research and Policy...Looking Forward

This final panel will consider the latest research findings on contemporary issues impacting the well-being of the forests and communities of the Sierra. The panel will also discuss where public policy is heading, what public funding might be available, and what policy course corrections may be needed to achieve sustainability in land management and economic development throughout the Sierra.

Panel Members:

Malcolm North, Research Plant Ecologist, USDA Forest Service [Sierra Nevada Research Center](#)*
Pam Giacomini, [Board of Forestry and Fire Protection](#)*
Steve Kaffka, Director, [California Biomass Collaborative](#)
Karen Douglas, Commissioner, [California Energy Commission](#)

1:00-1:15 Wrap Up, Hand-off to Regional Locations

Jim Branham, Executive Officer, Sierra Nevada Conservancy

1:15- 3:30 Local Discussions (meeting locations)

Following the panel presentations, groups gathered at the various locations will meet and discuss the regional implications of the information shared by panel members. With the assistance of an on-site moderator, participants will identify potential regional opportunities and next steps, including possible challenges and needs, who should be “at the table” for meaningful dialogue and action-based planning, and what roles the Sierra Nevada Conservancy can play to assist.

Post-Webposium Actions:

The SNC will record and post the formal panel discussions on its website. The SNC will also gather the feedback from each regional discussion, compile it, and make it available to all participants and the public. The findings and recommendations developed by each regional group will be reviewed to determine how to best support the local efforts being made to “connect the dots”... improve watershed/forest health and resiliency...reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire...and provide for economic development opportunities in the rural communities of the Sierra Nevada.

*Asterisk indicates that panel member has confirmed participation